

**Joint Meeting of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement and Public Works Committees**  
**Friday, January 17, 2003**

Chairman Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee Members Present:** County Board Supervisors Mareth Kipp, Dawn Fanfelle and Joseph LePorte **Absent:** Supervisor David Swan, Duane Stamsta and Keith Harenda.

**Public Works Committee Members Present:** County Board Supervisors Richard Manke, Kathleen Cummings, James Behrend, Genia Bruce, Hank Carlson, Karl Nilson and Rodell Singert. **Absent:** Supervisor David Swan.

**Also Present:** County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Advisor David Krahn, Legislative Advisor Mark Mader, Supervisor Duane Paulson, Supervisor Pat Haukohl, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski, County Executive Chief of Staff Jeff Landin, Legislative Associate Sandi Meisenheimer, Lieutenant Jeff Grebb, Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Jail Administrator Mike Giese, Director of Public Works Rich Bolte, Building Operations Manager Dennis Cerreta, Deputy Inspector Steve Marks, Senior Financial Analyst Mike Baniel and Office Services Coordinator Windy Jicha.

**Sheriff's Department Report on Construction of a Firing Range in the Justice Addition Capital Project**

Trawick said that a shooting range is not a new concept for the Sheriff's Department. In the past, they have investigated different places and options for indoor and outdoor firing ranges. The best situation would be an outdoor range with indoor capabilities. The Sheriff's Department has been shooting at the City of Waukesha's firing range but due to strict rules at the range, the county can no longer shoot at the outdoor range. The Sheriff's Department can use the City of Waukesha's indoor range but the hours are restricted and the department never knows when availability will end. The Sheriff's Department has been investigating options for the entire county. Other police departments in the county are having the same problem. Trawick said he is not attached to locating the firing range in the new justice addition but he needs a place for the officers to qualify. He said there would be substantial savings by putting this facility in the jail versus building a new facility.

Trawick said he heard the news of a Village of Pewaukee, City of Pewaukee and WCTC joint venture at the Chief's of Police meeting last week. He said he met with the Village and City of Pewaukee and found out that a firing range at WCTC is in the early stages of discussion and for now is just talk. He is concerned that the county needs to go forward now because of the strict timeline for building the jail. Trawick said he is proposing a shooting range be built in the basement of the county jail and that it be available to all police departments in Waukesha County. He would like to see the range open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. This schedule would be helpful with the midnight shift officers. Currently, the midnight shift officers are paid overtime so they can shoot during their off times.

Trawick said there are two indoor ranges in the county, one in the City of Waukesha and the other in the City of Brookfield. The county cannot shoot at the Brookfield range. The Sheriff's Department can use City of Waukesha's indoor range but are no longer welcome to use the outdoor one. The department has been traveling to Eagle to the McMiller Sportsman Club. This range is located in the southwest corner of the county and is not centrally located. The ranges located in Muskego, New Berlin and Oconomowoc Lakes are not available for the Sheriff's Department to use for various reasons.

Trawick said the following police departments have shown interest in a county-wide firing range: Village of Big Bend, Town of Oconomowoc, Village of Hartland, Village of Menomonee Falls, Village and Town of Mukwonago, Village of North Prairie.

### **Supervisor Nilson arrived at 9:15 a.m.**

Trawick said the Sheriff's Department needs a range that is capable of handling all of the handgun, shotgun and rifle calibers currently in use by the police departments in Waukesha County. After some research they found that the Patriot Range Technologies makes a range that will handle the needs of the county. Kipp and Esler have had a chance to see this technology at the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Training Academy.

Boltes said there are new issues that were not issues in the past such as the cleanup of spent ammunition. Police departments can't just go to any gravel pit and start shooting. Trawick said WCTC students use a National Guard Armory and the Oconomowoc Lakeshore shooting range to train.

Fanfelle asked how this range would compare in size to the Brookfield and Waukesha ranges? Grebb said both of those ranges have six lanes and the one in the county would have five lanes. Fanfelle asked if more types of guns could be used at the county facility? Grebb said yes, you could use more types of guns. Fanfelle asked why is Waukesha restricting use? Trawick said the City of Waukesha range uses cables, which are getting damaged and need to be replaced. The Sheriff's Department pays to fix what it breaks at the range but the money goes into the general city fund and not directly to the police department budget. The police department then has to make repairs out of their budget.

Fanfelle asked would someone have to staff the county range? Trawick said there has to be a certified range officer at the firing range during training. There has to be accountability for the facility and scheduling. Officers can't just show up any time and shoot. Fanfelle asked who would be the certified range officer at the county range. Trawick said we would use one of our own officers. Fanfelle asked how many officers would shoot per day? Trawick said it would be hard to determine a per day use. The Sheriff's Department would use the range three to four days per month including TACT team training.

Kipp said that at the Milwaukee training range, there are 21 lanes that are broken up by concrete walls. Milwaukee County uses Patriot Range Technology. They are so good it because it is very good and there are a few mechanical things that can break down. The backdrop is made up of ground up airplane tires and it is huge. The cost of training at this facility is \$15 per officer per day with a minimum cost of \$150 per rental. To use the facility, departments need to submit a lesson plan and have a certified training officer on site during training. The facility is only open five days a week. They do not have air conditioning but the temperature can be adjusted to simulate outdoor temperatures. The ventilation equipment is very large and somewhat disturbing. Air is recycled and filtered every eight seconds. They are still trying to finish the range and solve some problems but they couldn't say enough good things about the Patriot Technology. Milwaukee County budgeted \$8.7 million and the total bill came in at \$7.2 million. Milwaukee County has 687 sworn officers and there is still enough space for other departments to use the facility.

Kipp asked if the Sheriff's Department had figured out the cost to train at the Milwaukee County facility? Has the department investigated using Wern Valley? Trawick said Wern Valley is under severe restrictions and they are lucky they can continue shooting there. Trawick said the Milwaukee shooting range is a good idea and will investigate the costs. The Sheriff's Department has a shooting range on the third floor of the old jail, which isn't useable anymore. It used to suit the department's needs but then OSHA requirements changed, making it obsolete.

Esler said the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department uses this range exclusively for qualifying all officers. They do not shoot outdoors anymore. They can adjust the temperature between 35 – 120 degrees and the lighting can be changed to simulate different settings. Esler said he estimates it would cost the county \$15 per day four times per year for 160 officers or \$9,600 per year to use the Milwaukee range. If you add the estimated overtime of \$32,000 plus estimated travel costs of \$11,000, it would cost roughly \$52,600 per year to use the facility. This does not include the cost of tactical training or any other qualifications. In terms of the cost, the Milwaukee facility is nice but the cost is not too workable.

Nilson asked if there were any reported incidents of the tire medium catching fire. Boltes said they haven't looked into this because he didn't know that the system used tires. Grebb said one of the things that sold them on the Patriot System was a demonstration with the material. Milwaukee's range Captain saw a marine shoot 600 rounds of .50 caliber incendiary ammunition into the material with a machine gun. No bullet traveled through and it did not catch fire.

Manke asked could we build the range later? Boltes said the county could build it later at today's cost plus inflation. In that time there could be changes in regulations and technology. Physically, we can build it with the projector retrofitted later at no greater expense except inflation.

Trawick said the Sheriff's Department supplies a training officer when they use other ranges. The department using the county facility would need to provide an officer and lesson plan. The Sheriff's Department would supply a scheduling officer.

Dwyer asked if the county has an on-site range, would it eliminate overtime costs for shooting? Trawick said no it would not. Trawick said he recommends that the deputies shoot outside one time per year and that would require overtime. He projects that the \$25,000 spent on overtime per year for shooting would be reduced by three-fourths.

Dwyer asked Trawick, would this be the location you would pick if the jail were not being built? Trawick said this isn't the best situation for a firing range. The best would be an outdoor and indoor combination. After years of searching for a site, he doesn't see it happening. This is the next best option and the costs are less.

Dwyer asked if the county would charge a fee for use and would we recoup the losses? Trawick said he recommends that we don't charge a fee because maintenance fees will be very low. Dwyer asked, what about liability when we aren't overseeing the training? Trawick said no matter what happens the county could be sued. Trawick said they have had conversations with Stauffert to assess liability.

Kipp said she isn't convinced that the firing range needs a lecture area. If the range is limited to five people, why do you need such a big space? When she visited the Milwaukee range, she was impressed with the tactical training room and was wondering if the open area on the plan could be converted to an activity room to simulate all types of situations by putting indoors, windows and mechanical people? Trawick said the range needs the lecture area for reviewing policies, taking tests and briefings. Fifteen people may be in the range at one time and they would rotate between the shooting range and lecture area. Grebb said they could use the space for other things as long as no one is shooting.

Esler said installing a tactical room is very expensive because of the wall and air exchange.

Behrend said the range makes sense. He suggested that if the county wants to use a tactical room, the deputies could be sent to another location for training to limit costs.

Hauko said, it has been said that the range could be built now or later. Are the types of infrastructure preparations you need to complete when building that would prepare for the range? Cerreta said from a building standpoint, the shell will be constructed and the range materials are nothing out of the ordinary.

Esler said the Milwaukee range has a four -inch plank concrete ceiling, with eight inches of air space, plus a four -inch poured floor above. In the classroom, the Captains said you couldn't hear the firing.

Mader asked if the county is done using the City of Waukeesh range in 2003? Trawick said he doesn't know because it is a year -by-year review and every year there are more restrictions.

Mader asked are there any funding constraints with the proposed WCTC and Pewaukee range? Esler said WCTC doesn't have any money to contribute to a building, just land. If anything is done at WCTC, they are more interested in building a shared -use fire station. The potential of a police facility is more iffy than the fire facility. They are premising the joint venture with the Village and City of Pewaukee that if one builds a shared fire station the other will build a shared library. If anything were located at WCTC, a user fee would be charged. Esler said WCTC had inquired about using the Milwaukee range for their students.

Mader said in lawsuits the supreme court has dealt with, the frequency of police training is the key determinant when it comes to reducing liability. Are there benefits that arise when there is cooperative training with the Sheriff's Department? Trawick said yes. It helps to bring communities, officers and departments together and helps protect all communities.

Singert asked where the HVAC for this proposed use will be located? Cerreta said there are machines in the building and on the roof. Most of the units are on the south port and are screened so hopefully the noise will not project elsewhere. You are going to hear some fan noise but he can't say what the decibel level will be. There will be heavy -duty insulation. Singert asked if the third floor is located on Building B. Cerreta said it is above the office space on Building C. Singert stated, there would be no additional elevation above the area we're re talking about. Cerreta said this is correct.

Singert asked if this is the best use for the space? Boltes said this isn't necessarily the best use but one use that we are investigating. Singert asked if it could be used for Metro? Boltes said the Metro Unit needs more space than the basement provides. Trawick said there is a problem with having undercover officers connected to the justice facility with undercover cars and such.

Carlson asked if the noise would be too loud for the neighbors? Cerreta said they can control it. Carlson asked if the discharge is dangerous? Cerreta said the air handling machines should take care of this. Esler said the air discharge is cleaner than the outside air because it is filtered twice.

Carlson asked what would it cost to build a stand -alone facility. Boltes said they haven't estimated this yet. Carlson said there is a need for a range, but wonders if this is the proper location? Is it big enough for the entire county to use? Trawick thinks that it will be because it would be a 24/7 facility and is a good fit for all communities.

Carlson asked if you run the air discharge to the roof, isn't that a long way for it to travel. Boltes said all the air exitequipment would be on the roof.

1/17/03

Trawick is said he is presenting a realistic plan. He knows that we cannot build the deal range that he wants but this is a realistic proposal for the county. Trawick doesn't think the facility will be outgrown in the next few years.

Paulson said he is concerned about the noise that will be in the neighborhood as well as the courthouse and he wants to be convinced that you won't hear the firing noise. Trawick said that Grebb would set up a trip to the Milwaukee training range for supervisors who would like to go on a tour.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Fanfelle moved, Singert second, to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Judiciary Committee and the Public Works Committee. **Motion carried:** 10-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings, Secretary  
Judiciary Committee

Genia C. Bruce, Secretary  
Public Works Committee